(iii) The Consulate General of India, Jeddah has made necessary logistical arrangements for reception, transportation and accommodation of the pilgrims. Consulate General of India, Jeddah provides all pertinent information to the pilgrims and their relatives and the website of the Consulate General of India, Jeddah is interactive and user-friendly.

Visit of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister

919. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister visited India in September, 2006 and held talks with Indian leaders on the need to accelerate the implementation of on-going cooperations projects between two countries in the energy and transport infrastructure areas;

(b) whether the Prime Minister of India also subsequently urged upon the Iranian President telephonically to honour Teheran's commitment to sell LNG to India; and

(c) if so, what were the details of discussion/outcome of talks held between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes.

(b) No.

(c) The discussions covered bilateral and regional issues and focussed in particular on the nuclear issue and cooperation in the energy sector. On the nuclear issue Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister explained his Government's response to the P5+1 package. He emphasised that Iran was open to negotiations and was willing to cooperate fully with IAEA but would insist on its rights under the NPT and on the issue being reverted to the IAEA. On cooperation in the energy sector India emphasised the importance of Iran honouring the LNG deal signed in June 2005. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to the gas pipeline project.